

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-19 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~control~~ system for a plurality of lamp-operating devices that are arranged in a distributed manner comprising:
at least one control station,
a control line which connects the control station to each lamp-operating device,
and also having a receiver that is allocated to each lamp-operating device and is provided for the purposes of communication with the control station, with each lamp-operating device belonging to a first or a second type and with it being possible to join together lamp-operating devices of the first and of the second type to form functional couples, wherein the lamp-operating devices of the first type are configured and connected to the lamp-operating device of the second type, respectively allocated to them, in such a way that they can selectively activate or deactivate the lamp-operating device of the second type in accordance with a request of the control station.

2. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 1, wherein the lamp-operating device of the first type of a functional couple has a controllable switch

that interrupts the current supply for the associated lamp-operating device of the second type.

3. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 2, wherein all the lamp-operating devices are connected to common current supply lines, with the phase for a lamp-operating device of the second type being guided through the associated lamp-operating device of the first type.

4. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 2 wherein the lamp-operating devices of the second type are configured in such a way that after an interruption and subsequent re-establishment of the current supply a specified switched-on operating state is automatically taken up.

5. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 4, wherein the lamp-operating devices of the second type in the switched-on operating state operate an allocated light source at 100% of the maximum brightness.

6. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 1, wherein the lamp-operating devices of the first type and also the lamp-operating devices of the second type of a functional couple have respective supply lines which can be selectively connected to a light source that is to be operated by the lamp-operating devices.

7. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 6, wherein the light source that is to be operated is a gas discharge lamp, in particular a fluorescent lamp, with it being possible to connect the supply lines of the lamp-operating devices to the heating filaments of the gas discharge lamp.

8. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 6, wherein the supply lines of the lamp-operating device of the second type are guided through the associated lamp-operating device of the first type, with the lamp-operating device of the first type having internal circuit units for the selective connection of the supply lines to the light source that is to be operated.

9. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 6, wherein the lamp-operating device of the first type is an emergency light lamp-operating device and the lamp-operating device of the second type is a normal lamp-operating device, with the emergency light lamp-operating device having a monitoring circuit arrangement which detects the state of the current supply and when an emergency is identified automatically initiates the activation of the light source by means of the emergency light lamp-operating device.

10. (Previously Presented) A control system according to claim 9, wherein the emergency light lamp-operating device has a battery or an accumulator, whose energy is used to activate the light source in the emergency.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for initializing a control system for a plurality of lamp-operating devices that are arranged in a distributed manner and each of which belongs to a first or a second type, with it being possible for lamp-operating devices of the first and the second type to be joined together to form functional couples that are connected in such a way that the lamp-operating device of the first type can activate and deactivate the associated lamp-operating device of the second type, in which case the initialization is to bring about a situation where a control station, which is connected to all the lamp-operating devices by way of a common control line, obtains information on which lamp-operating devices form a respective functional couple, and with the method comprising the following steps:

- a) the control station communicates with all the lamp-operating devices in order to ascertain from each an already existing address and/or to allocate to each a new address and, furthermore, in order to ascertain from all of the lamp-operating devices the respective type;
- b) the control station calls up a certain lamp-operating device of the first type under its address established in accordance with step a) and gives it the command to deactivate an associated lamp-operating device of the second type if such a device is present;
- c) the control station successively calls up the lamp-operating devices of the second type under their addresses established in accordance with step a) and gives them the command to deliver a response signal;

d) the control station establishes whether a lamp-operating device of the second type has delivered no response signal and - if so - which one and registers that a lamp-operating device of the second type identified in this way forms a functional couple with the lamp-operating device of the first type, which was called up in accordance with step b); and

e) the steps b) to d) are repeated calling up every other lamp-operating device of the first type until all the lamp-operating devices of the first type have been called up.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein after the identification and allocation of a lamp-operating device of the second type to a lamp-operating device of the first type in step d) the corresponding lamp-operating device of the second type is re-activated.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein lamp-operating devices of the second type that have already previously been allocated to a lamp-operating device of the first type are not contacted in step c) by the control station.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for initializing a control system for a plurality of lamp-operating devices that are arranged in a distributed manner and each of which belongs to a first or a second type, with it being possible for lamp-operating devices of the first and the second type to be joined together to form functional couples that are connected in such a way that the lamp-operating device of the first type can activate and

deactivate the associated lamp-operating device of the second type, in which case the initialization is to bring about a situation where a control station, which is connected to all the lamp-operating devices by way of a common control line, obtains information on which lamp-operating devices form a respective functional couple, and with the method comprising the following steps:

- a) the control station communicates with all the lamp-operating devices in order to ascertain from each an already existing address and/or to allocate to each a new address and, furthermore, in order to ascertain from all of the lamp-operating devices the respective type;
- b) the control station calls up a certain lamp-operating device of the first type under its address established in accordance with step a) and gives it the command to deactivate an associated lamp-operating device of the second type if such a device is present;
- c) the control station calls up all the lamp-operating devices of the second type and gives them the command to take up a specified operating state;
- d) the control station calls up the lamp-operating device of the first type that was contacted in step a) and gives it the command to re-activate the associated lamp-operating device of the second type - if present - and to take up a switched-on operating state that differs from the operating state specified in step c);
- e) the control station determines the current operating states of all the lamp-operating devices of the second type, establishes whether a lamp-operating device of the second type has an operating state that differs from the operating state specified in step

c) and - if so - which one and registers that a lamp-operating device of the second type identified in this way forms a functional couple with the lamp-operating device of the first type that was called up in accordance with step b); and

f) the steps b) to e) are repeated calling up every other lamp-operating device of the first type until all the lamp-operating devices of the first type have been called up.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the control station no longer determines in step e) the current operating states of those lamp-operating devices of the second type that have already previously been allocated to a lamp-operating device of the first type.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein in order to determine the operating states of the lamp-operating devices in step e) the control station successively calls up the lamp-operating devices of the second type under their addresses established in accordance with step a) and gives them the command to signal their current operating state.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein a lamp-operating device of the second type in the switched-on operating state operates an associated lamp at 100% of the lamp capacity, with the operating state specified in step c) representing a lamp operation at a capacity that differs therefrom.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the lamp-operating devices of the second type are deactivated by an interruption of the current supply.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein allocated to the determined functional couple consisting of a lamp-operating device of the first type and also a lamp-operating device of the second type there is a common operating address under which the functional pair can be contacted.